This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Original) A money item acceptor comprising: a signal source to produce a money item parameter signal as a function of a sensed characteristic of a money item, a store to provide data corresponding to a normal acceptance range of values of the parameter signal for a money item of a particular denomination, the range including relatively high and low acceptance probability regions wherein the value of a parameter signal corresponds to a relatively high or low probability of an occurrence of a sensed money item of said particular denomination, and a processor configuration operable to determine when an occurrence of the parameter signal corresponding to a first money item adopts a predetermined value relationship, and in response thereto, to compare the value of a subsequent occurrence of the parameter signal corresponding to a second money item with data corresponding to a restricted acceptance range as compared with the normal acceptance range, and to provide an output corresponding to acceptability of the second money item if the second occurrence of the parameter signal falls within said restricted acceptance range, said processor being operable to compare subsequent occurrences of the parameter signal with the restricted acceptance range, and if a first number of them correspond to acceptable money items, to revert to the normal acceptance range, wherein, the processor is operable after reverting to the normal acceptance range and in response to a subsequent money item parameter signal adopting said predetermined value relationship, to compare subsequent occurrences of the parameter signal with the restricted acceptance range and if a second number

of them correspond to acceptable money items, to revert to the normal acceptance range again, the second number being different from the first number.

2.   (Original) An acceptor according to claim 1 wherein the second number is greater than the first number.

3.   (Currently Amended) An acceptor according to claim 1 [or 2] wherein the processor is operable to increment said first number by a predetermined amount to define said second number.

4.   (Currently Amended) An acceptor according to claim 1 comprising [any preceding claim including] a counter operable to count said first number and thereafter to count said second number.

5.   (Original) An acceptor according to claim 4 wherein the processor is operable to reset the count counted by the counter to a default count value in the event that there is no occurrence of a money item parameter signal within a predetermined security time period.

6.   (Currently Amended) An acceptor according to claim 1 [any preceding claim] wherein said predetermined value relationship occurs when an occurrence of the money item parameter signal has a value within the low acceptance probability range.

7.   (Currently Amended) An acceptor according to claim 1 [any preceding claim] wherein said predetermined value relationship occurs when an occurrence of the money item parameter signal has a value within a predetermined security barrier range outside of the normal acceptance range.

8.   (Currently Amended) An acceptor according to claim 1 [any preceding claim] wherein

the processor is operable to compare occurrences of the money item parameter signal with said

restricted acceptance range for a first predetermined time period following an occurrence of the

money item parameter signal that has said predetermined value relationship, and then to revert to

the normal acceptance range.

9.   (Original) An acceptor according to claim 8 wherein the processor is operable after

reverting to the normal acceptance range to compare occurrences of the money item parameter

signal with said restricted acceptance range for a second predetermined time period following an

occurrence of the money item parameter signal adopting said predetermined value relationship,

and then to revert to the normal acceptance range, said second time period being greater than the

first time period.

10.   (Original) An acceptor according to claim 9 wherein the processor is operable to define

the second time period as a predetermined percentage increase of the first time period.

11.   (Currently Amended) An acceptor according to claim 9 comprising [or 10 including] a

timer operable to time said first time period and said second time period.

12.   (Currently Amended) An acceptor according to claim 9 [or 10] wherein the processor is

operable to reset the time period timed by the timer to a default value in the event that there is no

occurrence of a money item parameter signal within a predetermined security time period.

13.   (Original) A money item acceptor comprising: a signal source to produce a money item

parameter signal as a function of a sensed characteristic of a money item, a store to provide data

corresponding to a normal acceptance range of values of the parameter signal for a money item

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of a particular denomination, the range including relatively high and low acceptance probability regions wherein the value of a parameter signal corresponds to a relatively high or low probability of an occurrence of a sensed money item of said particular denomination, and a processor configuration operable to determine when an occurrence of the parameter signal corresponding to a first money item adopts a first predetermined value relationship, and in response thereto, to compare the value of a subsequent occurrence of the parameter signal corresponding to a second money item with data corresponding to a restricted acceptance range as compared with the normal acceptance range, and to provide an output corresponding to acceptability of the second money item if the second occurrence of the parameter signal falls within said restricted acceptance range, said processor configuration being further operable to determine when an occurrence of the parameter signal corresponding to a first money item adopts a second predetermined value relationship with a range of values within said high acceptance probability region for a money item of a particular denomination, and in response thereto, to compare the value of a subsequent occurrence of the parameter signal corresponding to a second money item with data corresponding to an internal security range within said restricted acceptance range, and to provide an output corresponding to acceptability of the second money item if the second occurrence of the parameter signal falls outside said internal security range.

14. (Original) An acceptor according to claim 13 wherein, said processor configuration is further operable to determine when a first money item parameter signal adopts said second predetermined value relationship, and in response thereto, to compare subsequent occurrences of the parameter signal with said internal security range, and if a first number of them correspond to acceptable money items, to discontinue comparison with the internal security range of values,

and, after discontinuing comparison with the internal security range of values, and in response to a subsequent money item parameter signal adopting said second predetermined value relationship, to compare subsequent occurrences of the parameter signal with said internal security range, and if a second number of them correspond to acceptable money items, to discontinue comparison with the internal security range of values again, the second number being different from the first number.

15.   (Original) An acceptor according to claim 14 wherein the second number is greater than the first number.

16.   (Currently Amended) An acceptor according to claim 14 [or 15] wherein the processor is operable to increment said first number by a predetermined amount to define said second number.

17.   (Currently Amended) An acceptor according to claim 14 [, 15 or 16, including] comprising a counter operable to count said first number and thereafter to count said second number.

18.   (Original) An acceptor according to claim 17 wherein the processor is operable to reset the count counted by the counter to a default count value in the event that there is no occurrence of a money item parameter signal within a predetermined security time period.

19.   (Currently Amended) An acceptor according to claim 13 [any one of claims 13 to 18] wherein said second predetermined value relationship occurs when an occurrence of the money item parameter signal has a value within said range of values within said high acceptance probability region for a money item of a particular denomination.

20. (Currently Amended) An acceptor according to claim 13 [any one of claims 13 to 19] wherein the processor is operable to compare occurrences of the money item parameter signal with said internal security range for a first predetermined time period following an occurrence of the money item parameter signal that has said second, predetermined value relationship, and then to discontinue comparison with the internal security range of values.

21. (Original) An acceptor according to claim 20 wherein the processor is operable, after discontinuing comparison with the internal security range of values, to compare occurrences of the money item parameter signal with said internal security range for a second predetermined time period following an occurrence of the money item parameter signal adopting said second predetermined value relationship, and then to discontinuing comparison with the internal security range of values range, said second time period being greater than the first time period.

22. (Original) An acceptor according to claim 21 wherein the processor is operable to define the second time period as a predetermined percentage increase of the first time period.

23. (Currently Amended) An acceptor according to claim 21 [or 22] including a timer operable to time said first time period and said second time period.

24. (Currently Amended) An acceptor according to claim 21 [or 22] wherein the processor is operable to reset the time period timed by the timer to a default value in the event that there is no occurrence of a money item parameter signal within a predetermined security time period.

25. (Original) A method of accepting money items comprising: producing a money item parameter signal as a function of a sensed characteristic of a money item, providing data corresponding to a normal acceptance range of values of the parameter signal for a money item

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of a particular denomination, the range including relatively high and low acceptance probability regions wherein the value of a parameter signal corresponds to a relatively high or low probability of an occurrence of a sensed money item of said particular denomination, determining when an occurrence of the parameter signal corresponding to a first money item adopts a predetermined value relationship, and in response thereto, comparing the value of a subsequent occurrence of the parameter signal corresponding to a second money item with data corresponding to a restricted acceptance range as compared with the normal acceptance range, providing an output corresponding to acceptability of the second money item if the second occurrence of the parameter signal falls within said restricted acceptance range, comparing subsequent occurrences of the parameter signal with the restricted acceptance range, and if a first number of them correspond to acceptable money items, reverting to the normal acceptance range, after reverting to the normal acceptance range and in response to a subsequent money item parameter signal adopting said predetermined value relationship, comparing subsequent occurrences of the parameter signal with the restricted acceptance range and if a second number of them correspond to acceptable money items, reverting to the normal acceptance range again, the second number being different from the first number.

26.   (Original) A money item acceptor comprising: a signal source to produce a money item parameter signal as a function of a sensed characteristic of a money item under test, a store to provide data corresponding to an acceptance range of values of the parameter signal for a money item of a particular denomination, and a processor configuration operable to determine when an occurrence of the parameter signal falls within the acceptance range, for accepting the money item, wherein, said processor configuration is operable to provide a focused rejection window within said acceptance range and with a disposition dependent on the value of a preceding

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occurrence of the parameter signal corresponding to a preceding money item, and to provide an output corresponding to the rejection of the money item under test if its corresponding parameter signal falls within the focused rejection window.

27.   (Original) An acceptor according to claim 26 wherein the focused rejection window spans the mean of at least two parameter signals corresponding to preceding money items.

28.   (Currently Amended) An acceptor according to claim 26 [or 27] wherein the processor is operable to compare occurrences of the money item parameter signal with the focussed rejection window until a preselected number of successive ones of the occurrences have values falling outside of the window.

29.   (Currently Amended) An acceptor according to claim 26[, 27 or 28] wherein the acceptance range data provided by the store comprises data corresponding to a normal acceptance range of values of the parameter signal for a money item of a particular denomination, the range including relatively high and low acceptance probability regions wherein the value of a parameter signal corresponds to a relatively high or low probability of an occurrence of a sensed money item of said particular denomination, and the processor configuration is operable to determine when an occurrence of the parameter signal corresponding to a first money item adopts a predetermined value relationship, and in response thereto, to compare the value of a subsequent occurrence of the parameter signal corresponding to a second money item with data corresponding to a restricted acceptance range as compared with the normal acceptance range, and to provide an output corresponding to acceptability of the second money item if the second occurrence of the parameter signal falls within said restricted acceptance range, said processor being operable to compare subsequent occurrences of the

parameter signal with the restricted acceptance range, and if a first number of them correspond to acceptable money items, to revert to the normal acceptance range.

30.   (Original) An acceptor according to claim 29 wherein the processor is operable after reverting to the normal acceptance range and in response to a subsequent money item parameter signal adopting said predetermined value relationship, to compare subsequent occurrences of the parameter signal with the restricted acceptance range and if a second number of them correspond to acceptable money items, to revert to the normal acceptance range again, the second number being different from the first number..

31.   (Currently Amended) An acceptor according to <u>claim 1</u> [any preceding claim] wherein the signal source is operable to produce a plurality of individual money item parameter signals each as a function of a respective different characteristic of a sensed money item, and the store is configured to provide data for normal acceptance ranges of values, and any focused rejection or other range of values of parameter signals, individually for each of these respective different characteristics.

32.   (Currently Amended) An acceptor according to <u>claim 1</u> [any preceding claim] wherein the signal source includes a sensor to sense a characteristic of the money item.

33.   (Original) An acceptor according to claim 31 wherein the sensor is operable to sense a characteristic of a money item that comprises a coin.

34.   (Original) An acceptor according to claim 32 wherein the sensor comprises an inductor to sense an inductive characteristic of the coin.

35.   (Original) An acceptor according to claim 31 wherein the sensor is operable to sense a characteristic of a money item that comprises a banknote.

36.   (Original) A method of accepting money items comprising: producing a money item parameter signal as a function of a sensed characteristic of a money item under test, providing data corresponding to an acceptance range of values of the parameter signal for a money item of a particular denomination, determining when an occurrence of the parameter signal falls within the acceptance range, for accepting the money item, providing a focused rejection window within said acceptance range and with a disposition dependent on the value of a preceding occurrence of the parameter signal corresponding to a preceding money item, and providing an output corresponding to the rejection of the money item under test if its corresponding parameter signal falls within the focused rejection window.